GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:372
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
COMPENSATION TO FARMERS AT BORDER
RAMESHWAR DUDI;SUBODH ROY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are not able to do farming due to landmines and firing on border and LoC;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that crops, grazing fields and feeder canal have been destroyed in the border and LoC areas due to deployment of army;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the damage caused thereby;

(d) if so, the details of the loss of life and property suffered by the farmers/civilians; and

(e) the compensation paid/being paid to the farmers on this account?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 372 FOR 18.4.2002

Reports to the effect that farmers are not able to cultivate their fields due to the laying of landmines and occupation of land for other purposes by the Army have come to the notice of the Government. Reports of damages to the crops etc. of the farmers/people residing in the border areas, due to the current mobilization of troops in these areas, have also come to the notice of the Government.

(c) Instructions have been issued to the Local Army Authorities to carry out joint survey along with the representatives of the local revenue authorities to get the details of land occupied and to assess the compensation for the loss to the crops. The concerned State Governments have also been requested to extend all cooperation to the Defence authorities in assessing the compensation. The exact details of the damages will be known only when the surveys are completed.

(d) Government orders have been issued for payment of ex-gratia compensation to the people/farmers for the damages occurred to their crops due to the current mobilization of the troops in the border areas of J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

(e) To provide immediate relief to the farmers, it has also been decided to give 25% of the amount projected by the State Governments as loss towards the crops, pending finalisation of joint surveys. In pursuance thereof, Ministry of Defence have released a sum of Rs. 36 crores and Rs. 13.80 crores to the State Governments of Punjab and Rajasthan respectively as `on account` payment to be made to the individual farmers.